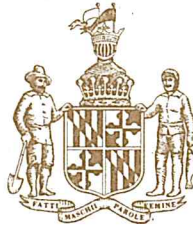


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**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

***TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 16***

***CRIMINAL PROCEDURE***

***EXPUNGEMENT - MISTAKEN IDENTITY***

***JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE***

***FEBRUARY 1, 2022***

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 16 is a very straightforward piece of legislation. This legislation would require the automatic expungement of records relating to charges of those arrested as a result of mistaken identity. Once the court makes a determination that an individual was charged as a result of mistaken identity (and enters a related order), every custodian of police and court records would be required to expunge said records and provide written notice to that effect within 60 days of the court order.

The aim of this legislation is very simple – To make individuals whole who have been wrongly arrested due to mistaken identity. Having charges on your record for any reason, or any amount of time, can create serious and dire professional and personal consequences. Expediting and efficiently removing these charges would be a small step toward remedying the hardships faced by those arrested through no fault of their own.

When mistakes are made, wrongs need to be righted and I wholeheartedly believe that this is a means to that end.

**For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 16.**